

Executive Director's Report For May 26, 2005

Legislation & Rules:

- In response to H.B. 2505, which was passed by the Legislature, but vetoed by the Governor, Chair Busching has designated 11:00 a.m. during the May 26, 2005 meeting as the time to listen to public comments and consider changes to the Commission's officeholder expense rule. All current officeholders have been invited to attend the meeting and offer public comment.
- Rep. Olivia Cajero Bedford (the bill's sponsor), Sen. Dean Martin, Rep. Phil Lopes, Clean Elections Institute, and the League of Women Voters have proposed changes to the rule. The proposed changes are summarized and included in the action items.
- H.B. 2505 would have allowed legislators and statewide public officials to maintain an officeholder expense account to be used to defray officeholder expenses. This legislation establishes regulation and limitations of these accounts and voids the Commission's rule that regulates an officeholder expense account.
 - Limits contributions to the officeholder account to contributions from an individual in an amount of \$296 for legislators and \$760 for statewide public officials.
 - Limits the total amount that an officeholder can receive or spend to \$15,136 for legislators and \$151,248 for statewide public officials.
 - Prohibits an officeholder from receiving or spending monies from the account during a period beginning the day the officeholder files nomination papers and ending the day after the election for the office held by the officeholder.

Voter Education:

- Discussed the timing, target audiences, and potential vehicles for the \$5 qualifying contribution through direct mail and other communications tools. OMA will develop a creative brief with the advertising team to guide the strategic direction.
- Developed and distributed op-ed on behalf of M. Busching re: Nonpartisan Enforcement Issues on 5/12, and distributed press release re: four candidates enlisting with Clean Elections for the 2006 elections on 5/19.
- Formulating preliminary list of proposed organizations to sponsor the 2006 candidate debates.
- Speaking Engagements:
 - April 14th -Globe/Miami Chamber of Commerce.
 - May 3rd -Kiwanis De Amigos.
 - May 19th - Greater Phoenix Urban League.

Enforcement:

- The latest 2004 Enforcement Status Report shows a total of 75 matters under review: 52 are closed or settled and 3 are under investigation.
- Five more complaints were filed on May 9, 2005. The candidates who are the subject of the complaints have been filing their responses to the allegations.
- In the David Smith matter, the Office of Administrative Hearings held a pre-hearing conference on Thursday, May 19, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. The pre-hearing conference addressed the factual and legal issues presented for hearing, and the manner in which the hearing will be conducted.

Staff and Office Operations:

- Genevra Richardson, Campaign Finance Manager, started on May 23, 2005.
- Electronic Fund Transfers- E. Gorseger is developing a procedure for disbursing candidate funding electronically is being developed with the assistance of ADOA and the State Treasurer's office.
- Working with the Secretary of State's Office, former candidates, and campaign treasurers, to make software changes for the 2006 election.
- COGEL will hold its Annual Meeting in 2009 in Phoenix.